



Issue No. 361

November 2021

## **Grain Harvest Assist**



**The Problem. Australia is facing a chronic skilled farm labour shortage, following our international border closure and the nation's hard border stance during the ongoing COVID19 pandemic.**

**Next General Meeting:  
Tuesday November 16 10 am**

**Speaker: Garry Spencer AM  
Operation Grain Harvest Assist  
10-Minute Talk:  
Derek Skues – Lord Somers Camp**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Chris Renwick**



At last we can see some of the light that has been at the end of the tunnel! It is great that we can mix together again - but there is still plenty of COVID out there, so we need to be sensible in what we do and where we go.

I trust that the recent storms did not cause any member extensive damage - my brother-in-law had considerable damage!

I am looking forward to our November activities - the Pub Lunch, the Bowls Evening and the Melbourne Club Function. We also have the President's Lunch at Woodlands in December - and this lunch is always one of the Club's standout occasions. Hopefully, Melbourne's weather will look kindly on us.

Although not much of the year is left, I will try to join as many of the special group meetings as I can. Travel seems to be on many people's agenda - I look forward to joining the Travel Group at its next meeting.

Our Keynote Speaker for November is Garry Spencer AM. Garry has been a prominent person in many Bayside activities. His latest project on getting help for farmers should be of considerable interest.

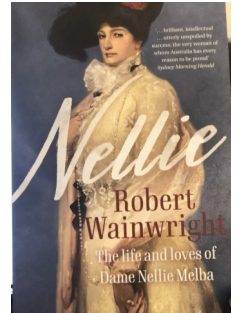
### What Members Are Doing



Lachlan McLean has been interested in aeroplanes all his life as his father was a pilot. Growing up, he built balsa rubber-powered flying models. During a couple of long stints in hospital and unable to get out of bed in the early 1980s, he started building plastic kit model aeroplanes as something to pass the time - although the nursing staff complained of the smell of the glue and paints he used.

### Of Divas and Dukes

*Dame Nellie Melba had a magnetism that radiated the sense that she was someone with whom to be reckoned*



Helen Mitchell was an Australian operatic soprano who adopted the name 'Melba' from Melbourne, her home town, later moving with her builder father to Mackay, Queensland, where he had a contract to build a sugar mill. A penniless Scottish migrant, David Mitchell found his skills as a stonemason in demand in Marvellous Melbourne where he even had a hand in the construction of the exotic Royal Exhibition Centre and other buildings and became quite wealthy, affluent enough to send his daughter to board at Presbyterian Ladies College, not far from her home in Richmond. *Nellie, The life and loves of Dame Nellie Melba*, traces her turbulent story from humble beginnings to worldwide fame.

Both in Melbourne and Mackay she drew attention to herself through her striking performances at local concerts - initially fund-raising for churches and cricket clubs - which stimulated her ambition to go on the stage. Despite marriage to a rodeo-loving country boy - which didn't last - she set off for Europe to further her ambitions. Overlooked in London, once she got to Paris the wide world of classical music and opera opened up to her. She became one of the most famous singers of the late Victorian era and the early 20th century and was the first notable Australian to achieve international recognition. Known from an early age as 'Nellie', she had an attractiveness that 'came as much from her personality with a magnetism that radiated the sense that she was someone with whom to be reckoned'. Wherever she performed, she drew the attention of theatre audiences including kings and princes. One in particular - Philippe d'Orleans, a pretender to the French crown - became the love of her life, but was largely unfulfilled. She was also a regular visitor at Buckingham Palace, the home of Queen Victoria and her son, Edward.

Robert Wainwright's entertaining and informative biography fills in the many gaps in our knowledge of perhaps our most famous citizen.

Peter McGregor

# NOTICEBOARD

## Probus Bikers

*Enjoying the obligatory Cappuccino at the half-way mark*



Above: Bike group taken at St Kilda beach - Ken White, Ken Beadle, Robert Kerr, Derek Skues, Jim Duggan, Geoff Carlson

## Discussion Groups

Members at the combined Zoom meeting in October talked about events in their lives which could have turned out differently. We also heard how heroes had influenced them. It was a very different but entertaining meeting.



In November, we will be able to meet in person but because of the limit on visitors we'll revert to two separate meetings. It will provide us the opportunity to celebrate our 10th anniversary properly - with better than usual refreshments! There will be a range of topics including: 'Australian Federation'.  
Barry Amond

## Pub Lunch

Our last for the year is on November 11 at The Newbay Hotel, Brighton with 20 attending. It will be one of the first outings for Probus Members and their partners, since restrictions have been relaxed.

## Wine Appreciation Group

The next meeting is at *The Steak Bank*, Ormond, on Thursday November 25. You can expect beautiful succulent steaks and you are asked to bring a red wine of your choice to complement the steak.

Roger Wilson

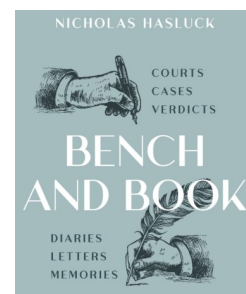
## Birthday Boys – November & December

RATTRAY, Ken	8/11	FLUDE, Peter	10/11
RUSHWORTH David	10/11	CARIS, Nick	14/11
GIBSON, Barrie	27/11		
TAFFS, Geoff	2/12	ROWELL, Phil	3/12*
STEWART, Philip	5/12	BERNHARD, Stan	6/12
STOCKDALE, Geoff	6/12	CARLSON, Geoff	18/12
GAMBLE, Aub	21/12**	SOLOMON, John	22/12
BRANSBURY, Geoff	28/12	CLELAND, Bill	30/12
WALLACE, John	31/12		

[\* 70th \*\* 100th]

## Next Month: The 'Stolen Generations' Myth

A review of *Bench and Book* in which WA Supreme Court judge, Nicholas Hasluck, takes issue with the findings of Sir Ronald Wilson's *Bringing Them Home* report.



## PLEASE NOTE:

We are still unable to use Highett RSL for our monthly meetings because of government space restrictions so our November meeting is again via Zoom.  
Hopefully, we will be back to normal in 2022.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

A reminder that to enlarge a picture or a page in this newsletter, simply hold 'Ctrl' button while scrolling the wheel on your mouse. That way you can blow anything up to the size you need. You may not even need your glasses! Ed.

## Probus Travel Insurance

*Probus* head office has recently partnered with one of Australia's leading travel insurance providers, *Allianz Partners*. Together, Probus and Allianz Partners will be making a range of travel insurance products available to Probus Club members across Australia.

Over the coming months the team at *Allianz Partners* will be developing a comprehensive website to make it easy for Probus members to apply for Probus Travel Insurance online. For members who prefer the personal approach or are unable to access the internet, the *Allianz Partners* Team will be more than happy to take insurance applications over the phone. Probus Travel Insurance will provide a range of options for both domestic and international travel from Australia. A further communication will be sent to Clubs as soon as Probus Travel Insurance becomes available.

I have attempted to contact Allianz Partners to enquire about any age-limits that might apply to Probus Allianz Travel Insurance. I will inform everyone on detail at a later date. Simon Appel



# New Member Profile

## Leon Laragy

Leon was born in Melbourne to parents who had served in the armed forces during WW2. His father, Joseph, served in the RAAF and afterwards worked for the *Herald*. Leon's mother, Constance, grew up in the Myponga area of South Australia and was an Army gunner and driver during the War. The family home was in Bayside.

Leon was a career public servant, initially in Human Resources. Leon was Victorian Personnel Manager for 17 years with the Electoral Commission. In that role, he proposed contracting out some operational activities to streamline practice. With the AEC, Leon's interest in relational databases led him to undertake further study in Business Software. A Payroll System Leon designed and developed for the management and payment of Polling Staff was used in Council elections run by the AEC in Victoria.

His interest in software steered his career towards Contracting and Procurement and a change from Human Resources Management; so he joined the Department of Defence where he developed several Procurement Systems deployed across Defence. One of these was to evaluate Tender Bids covering procurements of value ranging from the modest to 10 billion dollars.

Leon met his wife, Michele early in their adult life. Michele - then a designer - introduced him to theatre set building which eventually became a major creative partnership in building sets together during the late seventies and the eighties.

On one occasion, Leon worked with celebrated set designer, John Truscott, though (of course) he says Michele was better! Leon is a lifelong DIYer (and wishes he had shares in Wesfarmers) and has a longstanding interest in leadlight and metalwork. Leon and Michele are enjoying their many decades of marriage and have a married son, and two grandchildren.

*Leon and Michele became a major creative partnership in building theatre sets together*



## From the Treasurer

Recommendation to be put to November 2021 General Meeting

Members,

As per our Constitution, the joining fee and annual subscriptions for next year are to be determined by members at the November General Meeting.

Accordingly, my recommendation, supported by your Committee members, is detailed below:

### Joining Fee and Subscriptions 2022

Subscriptions for existing members to be:

\$85 with a discount of \$30, That is \$55 net payable. (Discount represents surplus from 2021 because of COVID-19)

Subscriptions are due and payable on 1 January 2022.

### New members in 2022:

Joining Fee of \$60 – Subscriptions to be paid pro rata on a quarterly basis:

Where a person joins during quarter ending:

31 March 2022	\$85
30 June 2022	three quarter: \$65
30 September 2022	half: \$45
31 December 2022	quarter: \$25

A draft Budget for 2022 based on recommendation (\$85 discounted to \$55), transfer from 2021 surplus and a reasonable increase in monthly room rental costs, Web site, miscellaneous costs and PSPL capitation fees, indicates a virtual "breakeven" result for the year.

<u>History:</u>	2021 2018	2020 2017	2019
Joining Fee	\$60 \$60	\$60 \$60	\$60
Subs	\$70 \$70	\$70 \$70	\$70
Discount	\$30* \$5	\$5 \$5	\$5
NET SUBS	\$40 \$65	\$65 \$65	\$65

\*Discount due to COVID impact

The above recommendations include the resultant amendments to the following Standing Resolutions:

Standing Resolution 2.1	Annual Subscriptions
Standing Resolution 2.2	Joining Fee
John Hewison Treasurer	October 2021

# Visits & Activities

President's  
Christmas Lunch  
Wednesday December 15  
12.00 noon. Last call!



This is our number one annual Probus event so we hope you can come - especially this year! Woodlands Golf Club, White Street, Mordialloc. We have entertainment from the fabulous Stiletto Sisters plus all the usual raffles. We will also celebrate Aub Gamble's 100th birthday. Cost: \$75 pp Includes a two course Christmas lunch plus wine and beer. Dress code: jackets for men. NOTE: The Golf Club requires guests to be fully vaccinated. Let's make up for last year which was cancelled! It will be great coming together again. Register and pay the treasurer ASAP. To register [CLICK HERE](#)

## Melbourne Club - Fine Dining - Tuesday November 16

Pickups will be from Beaumaris Community Centre (Library) Reserve Road, Sandringham Station and Brighton Baths. Times will be emailed soon. Please don't be late as the coach can't wait. We're due at the Club in Collins Street at 6.30pm. Dress code is suits and ties for men, NO denim for ladies and no name badges. [CLICK HERE](#) to see list of those attending or email [gbransbury@gmail.com](mailto:gbransbury@gmail.com) The Club requires all to be fully vaccinated.

## Bowls Social Event & Dinner Wednesday November 24

Last call! It's more a social evening than a serious bowls competition but you COULD win the Ted Montfort Memorial Trophy (see below right). If you don't want to play, that's fine. Just come and enjoy the dinner and company. Dinner is cooked and served by the ladies of the Sandringham Bowls Club. It's a hearty meal. You won't go home hungry. Drinks at low club prices. Where: the Sandringham Bowls Club, Tulip Street. Plenty of parking. Arrive from 4.30 for a 5.00 pm start. Finishes around 9.00pm Cost: \$40 plus your drinks. The Club requires all to be fully vaccinated. [CLICK HERE](#) to register



# The Last Word

## David and Goliath

Peter Sherman, a Director of the Ruthven Institute, described its alliance with the Melbourne University centred on research to improve the profitability and sustainable success of Australian businesses. To put the Australian share market in perspective, he outlined comparisons with the US market. Whereas the ASX has some 2240 listed entities with a market capitalisation close to \$3 trillion in 2021, the US share market has a capitalisation of US\$ 62 trillion.

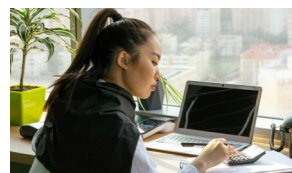


However, the Australian share market has fewer star performers. Unlike most developed nations, our market is heavily skewed to just two of the nation's 19 industry divisions: mining and finance. These two account for almost 60% of the total capitalisation yet contribute just 19% to the nation's economy (GDP of \$2 trillion). The US has a more contemporary mix loaded with innovation and intellectual property (IP). Further, 14 of our largest 100 listed corporations achieved world's best practice (WBP) profitability of 22%, compared with 40 of the US 100 largest. At the other end of the performance ladder, 27 of our 100 largest listed earned less than the longer-term bond rate or ran at a loss, compared with just six of the US 100 largest listed companies. Simon Appel

## Lessons from COVID

Well-known professor of epidemiology at Monash University and Alfred Health, Allen Cheng, delivered an enlightening presentation on what we have learned from COVID. Australia is a unique island, with a diverse population and mixed but generally good healthcare. However, he said Australia's main vulnerabilities included frequent travel to China, Federation versus State regulatory contrasts, our remote indigenous communities and fragmentation of diagnostic laboratories.

He described public health governance as diverse and disconnected and often with no background in addressing public health issues. The pathways to opening up again include vaccination nationwide, protein vaccine bases, viral vector developments and RNA/DNA research. Allen said that Australia achieved local elimination of COVID in early 2020. The large second wave in Victoria was controlled and vaccines are now being rolled out with major impacts on outbreak control. In conclusion, Allen reviewed his own role with the media. He expressed disappointment with what he described as the lack of constructive journalism. As a hospital doctor, he was too often suddenly confronted with journalists looking for someone to blame, he said. Simon Appel



## **PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.**

### **\* Office Bearers 2021** \* *Committee Members*

*President: <b>Chris Renwick</b>	0419 927 536	* Vice-President: <b>Jim Duggan</b>	0432 150 675
* Past President: <b>Simon Appel</b>	9585 6956	* Secretary: <b>Garry Sebo</b>	0419 340 565
* Treasurer: <b>John Hewison</b>	0419 357 203	* Assistant Treasurer: <b>Geoff Carlson</b>	9521 0024
* Functions: <b>Geoff Bransbury</b>	0416 294 452	* Assistant Functions: <b>Ken Beadle</b>	9589 6120
* Webmaster: <b>Geoff Bransbury</b>	0416 294 452	* Meetings: <b>Keith Ross</b>	0418 584 401
Assistant Meetings: <b>Barrie Gibson</b>	9589 3902	Sommelier: <b>Bill Green</b>	9596 1548
* Newsletter: <b>Peter McGregor</b>	0418 322 987	* Membership: <b>Peter Flude</b>	0405 127 271
* Welfare: <b>Alan Stevens</b>	0418 336 354	Auditor: <b>Robert Lander</b>	0435 930 082
Recorder: <b>Grant Sabin</b>	9598 4768	Assistant Recorder: <b>Simon Appel</b>	9585 6956
Audio Visual: <b>Paul Crompton</b>	9583 1310	Projectionist: <b>Geoff Cupples</b>	0411 251 406
Archive: <b>John Howe</b>	9598 2429	Photographer: <b>Alan Stevens</b>	0418 336 354

### **\* Interest Groups**

Bike Riding: <b>Ken Beadle</b>	9589 6120	Golf: <b>John Pound</b>	0414 251 292
Digital Technology: <b>Geoff Wade</b>	9588 2593	Visits: <b>Ken Beadle</b>	9589 6120
Discussion: <b>Barry Amond</b>	9515 0725	PRISMS: <b>Alan Nash</b>	9589 2934
Tastes: <b>Geoff Bransbury</b>	0416 294 452	Wine Appreciation: <b>Roger Wilson</b>	0418 395 946
Bridge: <b>Jim Duggan</b>	0432 150 675	Theatre: <b>Graham Ball</b>	9598 4125
Wine Discovery: <b>Grant Sabin</b>	9598 4768	Travel: <b>Simon Appel</b>	9585 6956
Pub Lunch: <b>Roger Wilson</b>	0418 395 946		